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WIB Healthcare Committee
Capital Health – Hopewell Township Campus
September 18, 2012—12:30 PM

Present: Scott Clemmensen (Capital Health), Beverly Mills (Mercer County WIB), Sharon Nemeth (MCTS), Gloria Frederick (WWWE), June Gray (Children's Futures), Dr. Shelly Chinkes (Comfort Keepers), Bruce Colligan (RWJ Hospital)

Scott Clemmensen, Chair of the Healthcare Committee, opened the meeting with introductions and comments about the continued mission and goal of the committee.

The May 15, 2012 minutes were reviewed and approved (1st Sharon Nemeth; 2nd Gloria Frederick). Minutes will be placed on the County website at www.mercercounty.org.

Mercer Healthcare Academy Update

Sharon Nemeth updated on behalf of the Academy. She reported that students were currently in Washington, DC as state representatives for HOSA and will also meet with various legislators and administrators. This is quite an honor for these students who should be commended for their hard work.

This Academy began because of an identified need and recruits high level academic students. The program is full time for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students who can earn up to 21 college credits. Heavy recruitment in the various school districts begins in October starting with 8th graders. Many of these students want to pursue a four year degree and are excited about careers in health care.

Women of Color Conference

Gloria Frederick informed the committee of plans for a Women of Color Conference in September of 2013. The purpose of the conference is to identify barriers that face women of color trying to access employment in healthcare. Other barriers, particularly outlined in a Minnesota study, include trouble getting into training, financial issues, childcare, transportation and licensing.

The purpose for this conference is to identify local barriers and begin working with employers (through advocacy groups) to reduce these barriers.

A question was posed by Gloria: Due to the high unemployment rate among women of color wouldn't there be an opportunity to look differently at this ruling? A person with an LPN license cannot work as a CNA; you must

work to the highest level of licensure. Many times this dissuades students from taking their exams. The pros and cons of this rule were discussed by committee.

Gloria further mentioned the issue of lack of experience once students finish school.

Scott said experience is key and internships, if available, is the best way to start. Gloria mentioned that Spring Point has an internship program and is willing to help toward students gaining experience; they also pay \$10.00 hour for up to four months. This would be a great opportunity for Wonderful Women Institute students.

Identification of Goals for 2012-2013

Beverly discussed the WIB Strategic Plan and the five Essential Elements identified as a guide for the WIB to follow from 2011-2014. Committee discussed current in demand jobs in healthcare and how they apply to our local region. Professions considered included:

- Medical Assistant
- Certified Nursing Assistant/Home Health Aid
- Imaging
- Rehabilitative Assistance
- Ambulatory Transport
- Medical Coding

Sharon reported that 10 students completed the YTWT grant and employed through CVS.

Shelly mentioned being at a meeting with Fox Rehabilitative and the need for people certified as Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech Therapists. This may be a new direction for people to start with by achieving certificates; this area also taps into Medicare Part B. Since more seniors are living at home these types of collaborative services would be a good starting point for many.

Scott agreed adding rehabilitative assistance as a growing area; he suggested we try again to invite St. Lawrence to the next meeting.

Announcements/Updates

Sharon mentioned that through the United Way of Mercer the Division of Public Health met with various focus groups to identify healthcare needs in Mercer County. They met with parents, elderly, high school students, etc. Not surprisingly the biggest issue was transportation. She said the report is a great resource to have and will forward the study to Bev (who will email to the committee).

Bruce asked if the focus was on achieving technical or clinical jobs; patient transport is another way to tap into the healthcare system that doesn't require a certificate. Shelly agreed saying people need to go to appointments and ambulatory transport is paid for through Medicare. This would be a great avenue for a basic entry level position.

Committee asked Bev to email the distribution list of healthcare members to all.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at the Hopewell Township Campus of Capital Health starting at 12:30 PM and ending 1:45 PM**

